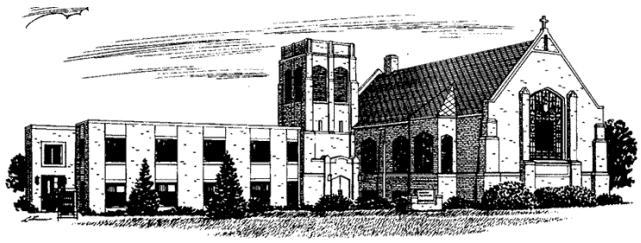


SARON NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook: www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,
Bell Choir Director
Email: roll1mc@gmail.com
Irma Gorman, Organist
Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant
Megan Savage Financial Secretary
Email: financial@saronlutheran.org
Emily Gaul, Child Care

Sundays at Saron:
During the School Year:
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

Summers (thru Labor Day weekend):
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

All are welcome!

We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the
North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal
Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

Saron's Mission:
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!

October 2019

Our program year is in full swing and with it a couple of new opportunities. In October we will begin our Stewardship Emphasis. This begins with a Prayer Vigil on Friday, October 18, from 2-6 PM. The weeks of October 20 and 26 will offer mission moments in worship as well as Bible studies during the week, culminating in Commitment Sunday on November 3. All of this as we extend our commitments through our annual giving and Project Fortify and Fly, as we respond to God's goodness to/for God's people. Watch for more details!

I will also offer a new study on Wednesdays from 6-7 PM, beginning October 2, entitled "*Dialogues on the Refugee Crisis*." From the publisher's website: *Refugees in America. It's a tough topic, both at a local community level and from a national policy perspective. To bring perspective and meaningful conversations around this topic, The Dialogues On: The Refugees Crisis Learner Book offers eight unique perspectives from experienced authors from renowned organizations such as World Relief and Church World Service that provide insight into refugee stories and experiences.*

Cost of the learner book, available September 29, is $10. I hope you will join me for this important conversation.

Pastor Joan

New Members

A gathering for those interested in joining Saron or learning more about the faith from the Lutheran perspective will take place in November. Contact Pastor if interested in attending.

Caring and Sharing

In Our Prayers –

We remember in our thoughts and prayers: **Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Bernice Koski** is at Woodland Terrace; **Virginia Anserello** is at Pine Ridge, Stevensville.

Office Hours at Saron

Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9:30 AM - 11 AM+
Financial Secretary: Megan Savage
Call the office for more information.
When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.
Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to info@saronlutheran.org.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in October 2019

Oct. 2 – Steve Cook
Judith Wedde
4 – Jim Oleson
Mary Kynast
8 - Jonathon Peterson
10 - Hannah Breyen
12 – Andrew Olson
13 – Kerri Hoodlebrink
14 - Pauline Ngonyani
15 – Elias Coar
16 – Kristine Weber
17 – Savannah Talbert
18 – Katherine Ulrey
19 - Robert Baumgartner
20 – Keith Stevens
24 – Matthew Baumgartner
26 – Gary Cowall
Amanda Bradley
29 - Donald Moely
31 - Ivan Kiessel

Happy Anniversary Wishes to Saron's Members in October 2019

Oct. 2 - Steve and Cynthia Schmidt
6 –Robert and Charlene Baumgartner
13 –David and Susan Bailey

"God's Blessings for a very happy day and year round"

If there is anyone who has been omitted, or, if the dates are incorrect from the birthday and anniversary list, please call the church office at 983-1273. Thank you.

WITH JOY

With joy we welcome Elliott Charles Hooper into the community of faith at Saron through Holy Baptism on August 25, 2019. Elliott is the son of Nicholas and Kaitlin Hooper. His sponsors were Andrew Huff, Sarah Allen, and Susan Tottingham.

Thank You Note

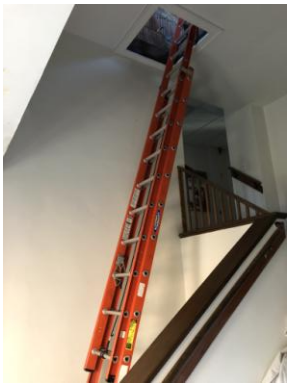
Thank you …again and again for being such a blessing to my late mother, Lila Roethel. Thank you for the visits to "The Willows." Thank you for the prayers that were lifted up on her behalf. Thank you for being a friend and fellow Christian soldier. May the Lord meet every need, for His glory.
Sincerely,
Love in Christ,
Fr. Bob and Randy Roethel and Family

Thank You Note

To our Dear Saron Lutheran Friends,
On behalf of the Children's Chapel kids and the Tiny House project, please accept our most sincere thanks and gratitude for your gift. It is very humbling and inspiring to see how far and how deep the support for the vision of our kids has become. We so appreciate your support and will keep you up to date on our progress. Building should start in January.

Sincerely,
Cara and all the St.+A's (St. Augustine's) kids.

FORTIFY & fly



Fortify & Fly soared to new heights last month as we completed the initial repairs on the bell tower and the lift truck arrived to begin tuck pointing (brick and mortar repair) on the exterior of the building. Also, big thank you to the Planned Giving Committee for organizing the workshop on August 15th with Pat Hartig, from the ELCA Foundation, presenting options for legacy planning. It was great opportunity for learning, food and fellowship!

As of the end of August, we had collected $182,397 towards our 3-year pledge total of $371,165, well beyond our 2019 estimated collections of $154,005 and actually getting close to the halfway point. Let that sink in. We have almost collected half of our pledge total in 9 months of the 1st year of a 3-year pledge timeframe. That kind of math can only involve amazing, generous people and an amazing, generous God.

Worship

FACEBOOK & WORSHIP VIDEO

We love to share pictures of Saron's ministry on our Facebook page and we get great feedback. It is our practice not to put names with the pictures. In addition, portions of our worship are being recorded for the purpose of sharing with those who are not able to attend worship, particularly those who are home bound. If you have questions, or prefer your picture not to appear on a video, please contact Aaron Becker (at the camera) or Pastor.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

Sunday, Oct. 6 –
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4
Psalm 37:1-9
2 Timothy 1:1-1
Luke 17:5-10

Sunday, Oct. 13 –
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c
Psalm 111 (1)
2 Timothy 2:8-1
Luke 17:11-19

Sunday, Oct. 20 –
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 121
2 Timothy 3:14--4:5
Luke 18:1-8

Sunday, Oct. 27 –
Reformation Day
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 46
Romans 3:19-28
John 8:31-36

PRAYER GROUP

Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which includes lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

Nursery News

We are back to two services so that means we need two people every Sunday (one person for each service) to help in the nursery with our childcare worker Emily. Please consider joining our group so that I can keep the duty days to once every other month for the late service, and increase it to that for our early service. Please let Marilyn Lucy, Krin Jurgensen, or Pastor Oleson know you are interested.

2019 FLOWER CALENDAR

The 2019 flower calendar is posted. Cost: $25.00/vase. This is an opportunity for you to give flowers in honor or memory of someone. The church orders the flowers (unless you indicate otherwise) and you can take the flowers home after 2nd service.

Youth

Are you in grades 6-12? We hope you can join us on Sunday, October 13, after worship until 2:30. Lunch is included! For more info, contact Scott at scottgaspari@outlook.com or (Cell) 847-373-8825.

Learning

book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

SUNDAY LEARNING HOUR NEWS

There are learning groups for ages 3-adult on Sundays at 9:40. This includes younger youth, confirmation aged youth (gr. 6-8), high school youth, and adults. The adult forum continues their series on St. Augustine's Confessions, a series from Great Courses. Newcomers are always welcome.

Men's monthly Bible Devotions and Breakfast

There will be Men's Bible Devotions/Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. October 5th, at the Galley Grill.

Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study

Saron Men's Bible Study meets every Tuesday at 6:00pm at the church then at 7:00pm we adjourn and all are invited to join in for something to eat and/or drink at Azul Tequila. If you have questions, feel free to contact Bob Kynast at 269-921-2786 or bobkynast@gmail.com.

THURSDAY MORNING STUDY

"A Thrill of Hope: The Christmas Story in Word and Art" begins October 3. We will look at and discuss the familiar story of Christmas as told in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke and accompanying artwork by John August Swanson. You may be familiar with a few of these pieces, as they hang in our lounge area. Themes included are:

A Visit (Luke 1:26-38) – October 3;
The Nativity (Luke 2:1-7) – October 10;
The Shepherds (Luke 2:8-20 – October 17;
Epiphany (Matthew 2:1-12) – November 7;
Presentation in the Temple (Luke 2:21-40) – November 14; and
Flight into Egypt Matthew 2:13-15) – November 21.

The learner guide for this 6-week study is $5.00. They are available in the narthex. The group meets on Thursdays from 9:30-11:00. Join us for good discussion, friendship, and learning.

EPHESUS STUDY GROUP

Ephesus will meet at the home of Don and Carol Hafer on October 20th at 5:30 pm. Carol and Don will lead the study that evening. Following the study, all will share a simiple meal together. If you haven't tried this group, you might want to join us for an evening of thoughtful conversation and good food! All are welcome.

1ST SUNDAY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Join us on October 6th, 6:30 p.m. in the upstairs lounge for our first book of the season, "Where the Crawdads Sing", by Delia Owens. One of the most popular books of 2019, Amazon describes it best: "Ode to a natural world, heart breaking coming of age story, and a surprising tale of possible murder, along with the beautiful and violent secrets nature keeps." Judging from comments heard, this is shaping up to be a lively discussion. Don't miss it.

Then on Sunday, November 3rd, our selection is "Before We Were Yours", by Lisa Wingate. 1939 in Memphis, four children are taken from their parents due to their mother's illness, placed in an orphanage, and assured that they will be returned to their parents. Fast forward to present day South Carolina where wealthy, privileged Avery Stafford begins to have questions about her family's history. Thus begins the unraveling of a real life scandal of an adoption agency, it's notorious director and the kidnapping and selling of children to wealthy couples all over the country. Based on a true story, "this is a riveting, wrenching and eventually up-lifting tale". (Amazon)

Come read, talk and share ideas. If you love to read, we'd love to have you join us. Questions? Call Kathy Cowall (269-428-0354) kcowall@hotmail.com

"Reading is a means of thinking with another person's mind: it forces you to stretch your own". (Charles Scribner, Jr.)

Women of the ELCA.

Deborah Circle will meet at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 9th, 2019, at the home of Linda Pater. Study leader will be Denise Cook.

LWR KITS

Each fall Saron Church Women support the collection of **"PERSONAL CARE KITS", "FABRIC KITS", and also CASH DONATIONS for shipping costs** for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). LWR then distributes them all over the world, wherever they are needed.

This year we passed out kit bags beginning **Sunday, SEPTEMBER 15** with the final collection day **Sunday, OCTOBER 6th.** A personal care kit has one light weight bath towel (dark color recommended), two bath-size bars of soap, one adult size toothbrush, one sturdy comb and one metal nail clipper. A fabric kit has 2-4 yards of cloth and matching thread.

PLEASE, "DO NOT ADD OTHER ITEMS OR LEAVE OUT ANY OF THE ITEMS LISTED. ALL ITEMS SHOULD BE NEW AND IN GOOD CONDITION."

The last few years we have been asked to donate money for shipping costs. Donations can be cash or checks made payable to Saron Church Women.

Thank you in advance for your generosity in supporting this ministry.

Dorcas Circle Luncheon at Applebee's

Saron Church Women fun-raising trip

On August 22, Saron Church Women sponsored a fund-raising day bus trip to Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids. Thanks to everyone who attended and had an enjoyable time. Thanks, also, to the planning committee: Mary Kynast, Carol Hafer, Sally Schmuhl, and Liz Kunkel. After expenses, the net totaled $580.00. $290.00 was sent to Samaritas (LSSM) and $290.00 went to the Benton Harbor Women's Safe Shelter. Thanks, again!

Hospitality

Sign Up for Refreshments

Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

Support

A Special Message for Travelers and Those Who Prefer Electronic Giving

Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or to enroll. Thanks.

STOCK DONATIONS

Saron partners with TD Ameritrade, a brokerage firm, to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock, e-mail Matt Bradley to receive the account number for which the shares will be transferred to. Once the transaction has been completed, e-mail Matt Bradley the name of the stock, the number of shares, and the date of the transfer. This allows the transaction to be completed and ensures it is included on your giving statement. Thanks! Matt Bradley, treasurer

Are you a Thrivent member?

If you are, you have an opportunity to help with the funding of a work project, as coordinated through our Outreach or Facilities teams. Please let Janet Oleson or Pastor know if you are a member, have interest or questions.

Outreach

INCLUSIVITY TASK FORCE

A task force at Saron has been looking at issues of welcome and inclusivity and how to best live into our mission of "joyfully sharing God's love for all!!!" Serving on the task force are Kati and Nick Hooper, Laurel Gacek, Laura Hicks, Darlene Kiessel and Pastor. Contact any of these folks if you would like to know more.

BENTON HARBOR SOUP KITCHEN

A big thank you to the Saron members who helped provide a ham dinner, in August for over 100 people at the Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen! Cookies were baked by Keith Stevens, Amy Nelson, Karen Johnson & Janet Oleson & the meal was prepared & served by Wendy King, Ruth Ball, Deb Standen, Kathie & Dave Bradley, & Kate Ulrey.
Also thank you to all who help by supporting the Soup Kitchen with your time, gifts & prayers.

Large cans of fruit are always needed at the Soup Kitchen & can be dropped off anytime at the church. Any questions or to volunteer or provide cookies please contact Kathie Bradley at 427-7083.

INTERFAITH ACTION COLLABORATIVE
Documentary & Discussion at Vickers Theater:

Join us on October 1 at 7 p.m. for a free showing of a documentary about Rohingya refugees at the Vickers Theater in Three Oaks. "What's Next for All of the Refugees on Manus Island" is an Australian Broadcasting Documentary about two young Rohingya men as they escape the misery of Manus Island to forge new lives in North America. The documentary is a half hour and will be followed with an audience discussion with one of the men featured in the film, Imram Mohammad. The United Nations describes Rohingya refugees as one of the most persecuted minorities in the world. UN officials are concerned that Myanmar is guilty of genocide by endeavoring to ethnically cleanse the predominantly Muslim Rohingya from the county. The showing of the documentary is sponsored by Interfaith Action of SW Michigan and the Berrien Immigrant Solidarity Network.

Symposium on Gun Violence Reduction:

Hosted by Interfaith Action, Berrien County Public Health Department, and Southwest Michigan ALPACT (Advocates and Leaders for Police and Community Trust) on October 15 at 6 p.m., join us at the Berrien County Health Department (2149 E, Napier Avenue, Benton Harbor), to discuss gun violence reduction and this growing public health issue.

Presenters include: Dr. Bill Durston, Americans Against Gun Violence; Dr. Rob Nolan, Spectrum Lakeland ER Department; Guy Miller, Berrien County Public Health Department; Captain Randy Miller, Berrien County Sheriff's Department; and Charmae Sanders, Lake Michigan College.

"God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday

The Readiness Center Work Crew

School Supplies were collected, sorted, and donated to teachers in the Eau Claire Schools.

Quilts were tied and donated to Caring Circle Hospice

Facilities

LAWN MOWERS NEEDED

Lawn mowers needed for the fall. Volunteers to mow the yards instead of hiring that work out saved the church an estimated **$1,000.00+** in expenses last year. Please sign up to help the church save money on the lawn mowing and keep our grounds looking good. The church has its own lawn mower. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Questions? Please see or notify Bill Oleson.

Council News

Saron's Council Members – 2019

Scott Gaspari (847-373-8825) – President
Joe Ulrey (313-718-2563) – Vice President
Matt Bradley (419-306-5780) – Treasurer
Karen Johnson (269-983-2800) – Secretary
+++
Karen Hinckley (326-0688) – Worship
Brad Frey (921-8618) – Facilities
Brandon Burrow – Youth
Troy Burrow – Youth
Don Hafer (269-470-2255) - Support
Karen Johnson (269-983-2800) – Hospitality
Deanna Deaton (429-9086) - Hospitality
Kristen Harper (277-9277) – Learning, Youth
Amy Nelson (920-227-5354) – Outreach
Joe Ulrey (313-718-2563) – Fortify and Fly
Joan Oleson (983-1273) office;
983-2475 home) – Pastor

Attendance Record	
08/25/2019	*88*
09/01/2019	*41*
09/08/2019	*102*
09/15/2019	*92*
09/22/2019	*93*

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email:info@saronlutheran.org

A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

October 2019

We're on Facebook! Like us at
www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

A blessing at the start of a new academic and program year

Saron
October Volunteer Schedule

	October 6 *Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*		*October 13* *Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*		*October 20* *Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost*		*October 27* *Reformation Sunday*	
	8:30	**11:00**	**8:30**	**11:00**	**8:30**	**11:00**	**8:30**	**11:00**
Assisting minister	Pauline Ngonyani	Colleen Lundgren	Wendy King	Bill Oleson	Eric Standen	Constance Slater	Marilyn Frey	Scott Kohs
Reader/ Comm.Asst	Sue Rood	Mary Kynast	Susan Harris	Judi Huff	Fran Richards	Matt Bradley	Jim Manore	Don Hafer
Ushers	Brad and Marilyn Frey	Pat Breyen & Rebecca Sebrechts	Jim Manore and Steve Bell	Scott and Lindsay Gaspari	Walt and Sally Schmuhl	Peter and Karen Johnson	Eric and Deb Standen	Bob and Mary Kynast
Acolyte	Tbd	Molly Becker	Brooke Henderson	Meredith Gacek	Eric Burrow	Mia Bradley Grant Gacek	tbd	Mia & Alaina Bradley
Nursery 1st	Allison Rood	Kate Kohs	Deb Standen	Frieda Williams	Jenna Henderson	Judi Huff	Janet Larson	Mary Kynast
Nursery 2nd	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul	Emily Gaul
Bldg. close		Brad and Marilyn Frey		Bob Hopkins		Dave & Kathie Bradley		Jerry and Ruth Stelling
Snacks								
Flowers		Karen Hinckley her daughter Corinne &Ben's wedding Oct. 12th.		Dave and Sue Bailey anniversary on the 13th of Oct. TODAY		Darlene Kiesssel In memory of my dad's birthday Oct 13th.		OPEN

October 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. SCS Classes		**1** 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**2** 9:30am Golden Hammers 6:00 pm Refugee Crisis Dialogue	**3** 9:30 a.m. Bible Class 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	**4**	5 9:00 a.m. Men's Devotion/Breakfast at the Galley Grill.
6 6:30 p.m. 1St Sunday Book Discussion Group	**7** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**8** 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**9** 9:30am Golden Hammers 7:00pm Deborah Circle 6:00 pm Refugee Crisis Dialogue	**10** 9:30 a.m. Bible Class 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	**11**	12
13 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. SCS Classes	**14** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 6:00 p.m. Support Committee NewsletterArticle due	**15** 4:00 p.m.Vasa 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**16** 9:30am Golden Hammers 6:00 p.m Refugee Crisis Dialogue	**17** 9:30 a.m. Bible Class 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	**18**	19
20 5:30 pm Ephesus Group	**21** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting	**22** 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**23** 9:30am Golden Hammers 6:00 pm Refugee Crisis Dialogue	**24** 9:30 a.m. Bible Class & Soup kitchen 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	**25**	26
27 Reformation Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. SCS Classes	**28** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**29** 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**30** 9:30am Golden Hammers 6:00 pm Refugee Crisis Dialogue	**31** 9:30 a.m. Bible Class 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal		